

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Greeley Post Office
Greeley, Iowa 52050

Docket No. A2012-65

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

(January 24, 2012)

On November 14, 2011, the Commission received a letter from Genny Bennett (Petitioner).¹ The Petitioner uses the Greeley Post Office on a daily basis to mail medical alert jewelry and is concerned that her Express Mail orders will not ship the same day if the Greeley Post Office is closed.² Currently, the Petitioner takes her Express Mail orders to the Greeley Post Office around 3:30 in order to meet the postal truck going to the Dyersville Post Office approximately 20 miles away. *Id.* The Postal Service comments that the Petitioner can take her Express Mail orders to the Edgewood, Manchester or Dyersville Post Offices to receive the same Express Mail Next Day Delivery Service if the mail items are received prior to the time specified by the applicable postmaster.

The Post Office nearest to the Greeley Post Office is the Edgewood Post Office which is located approximately six miles away. AR, Item No. 33 at 2. The proposed Administrative Office is the Dyersville Post Office approximately 20 miles away from the Greeley Post Office. AR, Item No. 1 at 1. In response, to the question regarding the choice of the Dyersville Post Office as the Administrative Office, the Postal Service stated that the Dyersville Post Office was chosen to be the administrative office for customers of the Greeley Post Office on the basis that it would be the most cost efficient method. AR, Item No. 25 at 3. Delivery and retail services will be provided by rural route delivery to cluster box units. AR, Item No. 47 at 7 and 9. The postmaster position

¹ Genny Bennett is the owner of an internet company Oneida Nameplate Co, Inc. Administrative Record (AR), Item No. 22 at 68c.

² <http://www.oneida-medical-jewelry.com>

became vacant when the postmaster retired on January 1, 2010.³ Since then, an Officer-in-Charge has filled the vacancy. The Greeley Post Office has 85 post office boxes rented. *Id.* The Dyersville Post Office has 90 post office boxes available for rent.

The retail window averaged 42.5 transactions on a daily basis which equates to 59.9 minutes per day.⁴ Window transaction revenues have been declining. In FY 2008, revenues were \$40,659; in FY 2009, revenues were \$37,754; and in FY 2010, revenues were \$36,981. AR, Item No. 33 at 2. The Postal Service estimates that it will save \$33,099 with the closure of the Greeley Post Office.

On May 6, 2011 the Postal Service distributed 277 questionnaires to the Greeley Post Office customers. Of the 73 responses received, 10 were favorable, 19 unfavorable and 44 expressed no opinion. *Id.* Item No. 33 at 2. One customer asked what the impact of closing the Greeley Post Office closing would have on local businesses. The Postal Service responded that businesses would continue to receive regular and effective postal services. *Id.*, Item No. 35 at 10.

A community meeting was held on May 23, 2011 to respond to customer questions and provide information to customers. Thirty customers attended the meeting. *Id.*, Item No. 47 at 2.

The Postal Service responded to the Petitioners concerns on December 29, 2011, in its Comments Regarding Appeal (Postal Service Comments) and in its Final Determination.⁵ The Postal Service remarked on the convenience of rural delivery for senior and disabled citizens, who will not have to travel to a post office to pick-up their mail or purchase stamps. AR, Item No. 47 at 6.

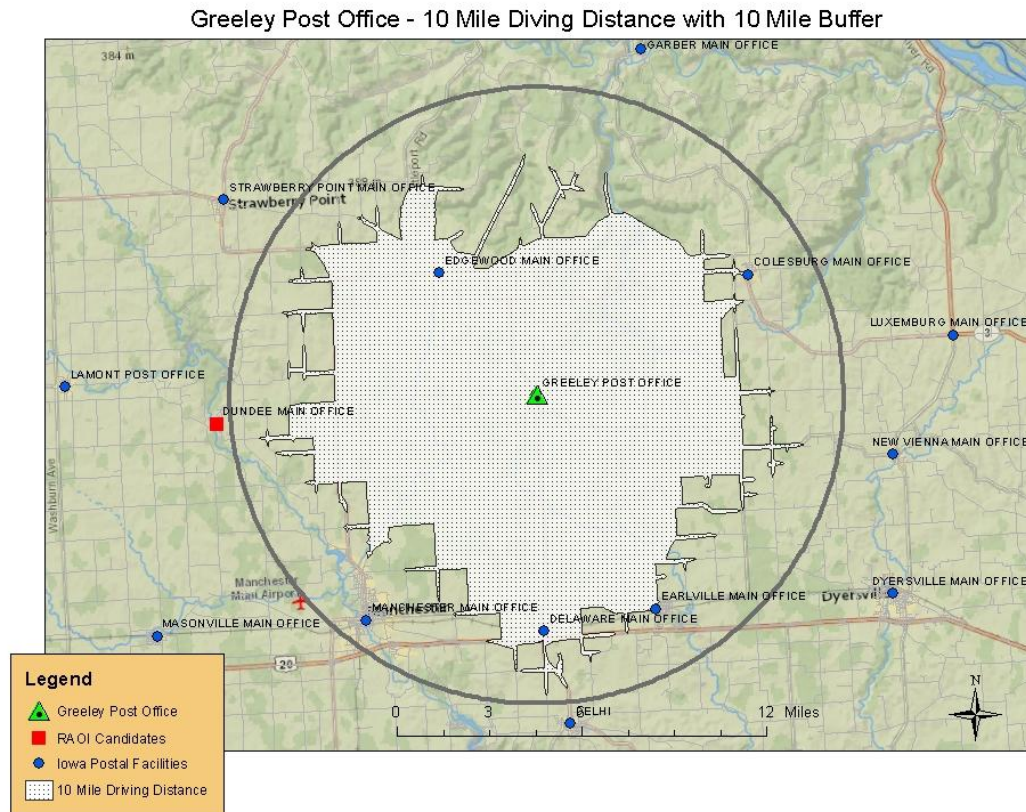
The Public Representative finds that the Postal Service has adequately considered the Petitioner's concern, and no persuasive argument has been presented which would prevent the Commission from affirming the Postal Service's determination to close the Greeley Post Office. The Public Representative concludes that the Postal

³ AR, Item No. 41 at 10 indicates that the postmaster retired on January 1, 2010. – Effect on Employees. However, the United States Postal Service Comments Regarding Appeal, January 6, 2010 at 2, indicates that the Postmaster was promoted. The discrepancy is insufficient reason to request a remand.

⁴ AR, Window Transaction Survey. Item No. 10 at 1.

⁵ The Final Determination (FD) can be found at Item No. 47 in the Administrative Record (AR). The Closing Notice and the FD were each posted for 60 days.

Service has followed applicable procedures, that the decision to close the Greeley Post Office is neither arbitrary nor capricious and that the Postal Service's decision is well supported. For informational purposes, a local map follows.



Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Pamela Thompson
Public Representative
for Docket No. A2012-65

901 York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20268-0001
(202) 789-6834; Fax (202) 789-6891
e-mail: pamela.thompson@prc.gov